

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-11

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01

PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 DHA-02 L-03 /073 W

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R 031848Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2781

INFO DEA HQS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MEXICO 1447

S/NM FOR VANCE; ARA FOR LUERS; AID/SER/INC FOR WAMPLER;  
DEA FOR EOI - CUSACK

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR OTRA MX

SUBJECT: VISIT OF AMB VANCE

1. SUMMARY: AMB VANCE SPENT BUSY 4 DAYS AND 5 NIGHTS IN MEXICO CITY, FROM EVENING JAN. 23 TO EARLY MORNING JAN. 28. DURING THAT PERIOD HE: (A) MET TOTAL OF 4 TIMES WITH MEXICAN AG; (B) GAVE PRESS CONFERENCE JOINTLY WITH AG; (C) RECEIVED BRIEFINGS BY MISSION PERSONNEL AT RESIDENCE AND AT CHANCERY; AND (D) SPENT DAY OBSERVING SPRAYING OPERATIONS NEAR CULICANA, INCOMPANY WITH MEXICAN CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR, DEA AND EMBOFFS. IMPORTANT POINTS OF AMB VANCE'S CONVERSATIONS ARE GIVEN BELOW (MEXICAN CND CANDIDACY, PRESS CONFERENCE, AND TWIN COMMISSIONS PROPOSAL TO BE REPORTED BY SEPTELS). RESPONDING TO SPECIFIC REQUESTS FROM AG, AND CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR, OUR ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS ARE: (A) IN FEB., MISSION WILL EVALUATE AG'S NEEDS FOR ADDITIONAL MECHANICS, COMMO BASE STATIONS AND POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF EVERGREEN PILOT INSTRUCTOR CONTRACT, AND WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANY ACTION WE CONSIDER WARRANTED; (B) S/NM AND CUSTOMS TO PROVIDE DETECTOR DOGS AND RELATED TRAINING FOR USE IN ROADBLOCK INTERDICTION PROGRAM: AND (C) IN ADDITION TO GOM REQUESTS, WE REQUEST ONE MORE GENERAL TECHNICAL ADVISOR (FOR TOTAL OF TWO)  
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TO ALLOW PLACING ONE ADVISOR IN FIELD AND ONE IN MEXICO CITY.

END SUMMARY.

2. DURING HIS 4 DAY STAY IN MEXICO CITY, AMB VANCE MET 4 TIMES WITH AG OJEDA PUALLADA: TWICE AT AG'S OFFICE ON JAN. 26 AT AG'S REQUEST, TWO OFFICIALS HELD JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE BETWEEN MEETINGS); AT DINNER AT NARCOTIC COORDINATOR'S HOME; AND OVER DRINKS AT AMB JOVA'S RESIDENCE. IN ADDITION, HE SPENT DAY OBSERVING AERIAL SPRAYING OPERATIONS AT TOPIA, DURANGO AND CONSULTING WITH MEXICAN CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR AND HIS STAFF IN CULIACAN, SINALOA. AMB JOVA BEING OUT OF MEXICO, MEETINGS IN MEXICO CITY WERE ALL ATTENDED BY CHARGE THOMPSON (AS WELL AS BY NARC. COORDINATOR). ACTING DEPUTY ADMINISTRATORS (DEA) CASEY AND OLIVANTI ALSO ATTENDED MEETINGS IN AG'S OFFICE AND AT NARC COORD'S HOME AS DID DEA REGIONAL DIRECTOR AND DRD AND BERNAL (NAU). IN INTEREST OF BREVITY, ONLY IMPORTANT POINTS OF CONVERSATIONS ARE GIVEN BELOW.

A. CAMPAIGN (GENERAL): AG REMARKED WE ARE NOW SEEING NEED FOR PERMANENT CAMPAIGN, (NOTE: WE ASSUME AG IS INCLUDING MARIJUANA AS WELL AS POPPY) IN WHICH HELICOPTERS WILL PLAY CRITICAL ROLE. IF SPARE PARTS, MECHANICS AND PILOT TRAINING ARE ADEQUATE, THEN CAMPAIGN WILL BE SUCCESS.

B. NEXT PRESIDENTIAL TERM: BECAUSE OF HIS PERSONAL CONVICTIONS, AND REINFORCED BY STRUCTURE WE LEAVE HIM (SAID AG), NEXT PRESIDENT, LOPEZ PORTILLO, WILL CONTINUE VIGOROUSLY ANTI-DRUG BATTLE USING ESSENTIALLY PRESENT MACHINERY. HE MUST BE GIVEN ABSOLUTELY FRANK ASSESSMENTS OF ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM BY AG, AND BY SEPT., MUST BE SHOWN THAT PRESENT STRUCTURE AND METHODS ARE ADEQUATE TO DO JOB.

C. MEXICAN HEROIN: AG DEMONSTRATED HIS CONTINUED SENSITIVITY TO STATEMENTS FROM VARIOUS US SOURCES WHICH DESCRIBE FROM 60 TO 90 PERCENT OF HEROIN ENTERING US MARKET AS BEING OF MEXICAN ORIGIN. AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION, AND DISAGREEMENT ON STATISTICS, AG AND AMB VANCE AGREED THAT WHATEVER AMOUNT OF HEROIN ENTERING US FROM MEXICO, IT IS TOO MUCH.

D. INTELLIGENCE EXCHANGE: AMB VANCE BROUGHT UP USG NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HOW MEXICAN HEROIN REACHES US, AND ASKED HOW EXCHANGE OF INTELLIGENCE MIGHT BE IMPROVED. AG REPLIED THAT HIS CAPABILITY FOR IMPROVEMENT OF INTELLIGENCE GATHERING AND EXCHANGE SHOULD BE CONCENTRATED IN DR. GERTZ' OFFICE; HE SAID SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE (ON CORRUPTION, FOR EXAMPLE, SHOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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MADE AVAILABLE ONLY TO CENTRAL OFFICE IN MEXICO CITY. HE ASKED GERTZ TO PREPARED ROUTINE QUESTIONNAIRE TO BE USED IN GENERATING INFORMATION ON TRAFFICKING PATTERNS, ETC. FROM DETAINED VIOLATORS (AG ADDED THAT THIS INFORMATION OF COURSE MUST BE OBTAINED WITHOUT VIOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS OR OTHERWISE FLOUTING MEXICAN LAW).

E. AIR INTERDICTION: TO AMB VANCE'S QUESTION ON HOW INFORMATION ON AIR SMUGGLING MIGHT BE IMPROVED, AT REPLIED THAT

THOROUGH AIR INTERDICTION PROGRAM WOULD REQUIRE RADAR AND MANY AIRCRAFT, AND WOULD RESULT IN VIRTUAL QUOTE AIR CURTAIN UNQUOTE BETWEEN US AND MEXICO. HE SUGGESTED JOINT GROUP STUDY PROBLEM, BUT IN MEANTIME AIR INTELLIGENCE IN MEXICO MIGHT BE IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY BY: (Q) ABSOLUTE CONTROL BY GOM OVER SUPPLY OF AVIATION FUEL: (2) ESTABLISHING SYSTEM FOR AIRPORT ADMINIS-TRATORS TO IDENTIFY AIRCRAFT IN FLIGHT: (3) GOM MAKING RECON-NAISSANCE FLIGHTS OF SUSPECT AREAS: AND (4) MOUNTING INTELLIGENCE EFFORT ON LAND BY USING LOCAL AUTHORITIES (E.G., MUNICIPAL AND EJIDO OFFICER) AND OTHER INFORMANTS. AG SAID THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF CLANDESTINE AIRSTRIPS; ALL AIRSTRIPS MUST BE SURVEYED AND THOSE FOR WHICH NO LEGITIMATE USE HAS BEEN DETERMINED MUST BE PUT OUT OF ACTION. DR. GERTZ LATER MENTIONED THAT BASED ON INTELLIGENCE, CERTAIN SUSPECT AIRSTRIPS WOULD BE CORDONED OFF BY SOLIDERS WHO WOULD REMAIN IN AREA FOR SEVERAL DAYS IN HOPES OF SURPRISING AIRCRAFT ENGAGED IN ILLICIT ACTIVITY.

F. MARINE INTERDICTION: BOTH AG AND GERTZ ANNOUNCED THAT THEY HAD AGREEMENT WITH SECRETARIAT OF NAVY THAT COASTAL PATROL VESSELS WOULD BE IN RADIO COMMUNICATION WITH AG'S AIR SERVICE AND WOULD COOPERATE IN BOARDING AND SEARCHING SUSPECT CRAFT. (GERTZ REQUESTED ADDITIONAL COMMO BASE STATIONS TO COM-plete AG NET AND TO ENABLE THESE JOINT SURFACE/AIR PATROLS.)

G. REMOTE SENSING (MOPSS): AG ADMITTED MOPSS DID NOT MEET HIS EXPECTATIONS BECAUSE IT WAS TOO SLOW TO COVER LARGE AREA IN TIMELY MANNER; FURTHERMORE IT HAD NOT BEEN USED EFFECTIVELY LAST YEAR. BECAUSE OF TREMENDOUS AREA TO BE COVERED, GOM HOPES TO AUGMENT MOPSS BY LEASING LEARJET EQUIPPED FOR AERIAL PHOTO-GRAPHY, AN AIRCRAFT TO FLY MUCH HIGHER AND FASTER AND THEREFORE TO COVER MUCH MORE AREA IN A DAY. IF THIS DOES NOT WORK OUT, AG SAID, HE WILL ORDER GERTZ TO MAKE MAXIMUM USE OF MOPS SYSTEM.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-11

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01

PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 DHA-02 L-03 /073 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2782  
INFO DEA HQS WASHDC

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H. MANAGEMENT PROBLEM: GERTZ SAID HE WAS TACKLING GENERAL PROBLEM OF INADEQUATE MANAGMENT BY ASSIGNING SEVERAL (NUMBER UNKNOWN) LOGISTICS/OPERATIONS COORDINATORS TO MAIN ERADICATION BASES. FOR EXAMPLE, SOLIS WOULD GO TO CULIACAN JAN. 30 WITH ONE SUCH MID-LEVEL MANAGER. TO AMB VANCE'S QUESTION, GERTZ ANSWERED ENTHUSIASTICALLY THAT HE WOULD WELCOME QUOTE SOME UNQUOTE USG TECHNICAL ADVISORS TO ASSIST IN FIELD IN IDENTIFYING AND HELPING SOLVE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLY PROBLEMS. AG CONFIRMED THIS IN LATER CONVERSATION WITH AMB VANCE.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BOTTLENECK: DR. GERTZ TOLD AMB VANCE THAT HE WAS ALL TOO AWARE OF PROBLEM ARISING FROM AG ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER MANCERA'S SHORTSIGHTED NIGGARDLINESS IN HOLDING UP FUNDS NEEDED FOR PERSONNEL TRANSPORTATION, PER DIEM, INCIDENTAL, ETC. HE SAID HE BELIEVED HE HAD SOLVED PROBLEM BY SETTING UP HIS OWN COMPTROLLER FOR CAMPAIGN AND TAKING THIS FUNCTION OUT OF MANCERA'S HAND. (NOTE: SUCCESS OF THIS PLAN REMAINS TO BE SEEN.)

J. SOVEREIGNTY QUESTIONS: (1) GERTZ SAID HE HAD PROBLEM WITH DEA AGENTS MAKING PAYMENTS TO MEXICAN FEDERAL AGENTS WITHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE. REG. DIR. EYMAN ASSURED GERTZ THAT SUCH PAYMENTS WERE NOT FOR INFORMATION OR COOPERATION, BUT WERE ONLY FOR PER DIEM. CAR RENTALS AND OTHER URGENT INCIDENTALS; HE SAID DEA WOULD GIVE GERTZ COMPLETE LIST OF ALL PAYMENTS MADE DURING THIS CAMPAIGN. AG REMARKED HE KNEW THESE EXPENSES WERE LEGITIMATE, BUT THAT HIS AGENTS COULD NOT SIGN RECEIPTS  
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FOR SUCH REIMBURSEMENT. (NOTE: DEA IS CURRENTLY EXPLORING PRACTICAL METHODS FOR CIRCUMVENTING THIS PROBLEM.)

(2) REFERRING TO FIVE EVERGREEN CO. HELICOPTER PILOT INSTRUCTORS (UNDER CONTRACT TO GOM), AG NOTED THAT UNDER MEXICAN LAW NO FOREIGNER MAY PILOT GOM AIRCRAFT FOR PAYMENT. EVERGREEN PILOTS THEREFORE WERE ACCEPTED AS INSTRUCTORS; THEY MUST CONCENTRATE ON THIS ASPECT OF THEIR WORK, AND NOT ON DESTRUCTION. THAT IS, THEY ARE IN MEXICO PRIMARILY TO TEACH MEXICAN PILOTS SPRAYING TECHNIQUE, AND NOT TO DO THE SPRAYING THEMSELVES. AG WAS ASSURED THAT EVERGREEN PILOTS ALWAYS WERE ACCOMPANIED BY MEXICAN QUOTE STUDENT UNQUOTE PILOTS.

3. GOM REQUESTS: A. GERTZ ASKED THAT CONTRACT PERIOD FOR EVERGREEN PILOTS BE EXTENDED FROM THREE TO FIVE MONTHS, SO THEY COULD OVERLAP WITH NEXT CAMPAIGN PERIOD.

B. GERTZ REQUESTED ADDITIONAL RIFLES (AR-15) FOR MFJP USE IN RURAL AREAS. AMB. VANCE SAID IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE POLITICALLY THAT GOM ITSELF

PROVIDE THESE WEAPONS. ATTY. GEN. COMMENTED THAT HE BELIEVED MEXICAN ARMY HAD SUFFICIENT RIFLES TO FILL DR. GERTZ' NEEDS.

C. ATTY. GEN. AND GERTZ ASKED FOR MORE MECHANIC INSTRUCTORS. THEY WERE REMINDED THAT 9 SUCH INDIVIDUALS WOULD SOON ARRIVE IN COUNTRY UNDER BELL CO CONTRACT.

D. GERTZ NOTED THAT A FEW ADDITIONAL BASE STATIONS WOULD BE NEEDED TO COMPLETE ATTY. GEN'S COMMUNICATIONS NET AND TO FACILITATE JOINT MARINE/AIR PATROLS (SEE PARA 2.F. ABOVE).

E. GERTZ ASKED THAT FIVE OF THE SEVEN DEA AIRCRAFT TEMPORARILY IN COUNTRY FOR THE CAMPAIGN BE MOVED TO ZONE 1 TO FACILITATE VISUAL OBSERVATION OF ERADICATION RESULTS (THUS PROVIDING A THIRD SOURCE OF VERIFICATION IN ADDITION TO THE ARMY AND MFJP). HE WAS TOLD BY REF. DIR. EYMAN AND DEP. REG. DIR. HEATH THAT THERE WAS NO PROBLEM IN THIS BEING DONE, BUT THAT FOUR AIRCRAFT COULD COVER THE AREA QUITE ADEQUATELY. GERTZ AGREED TO THIS.

F. GERTZ ALSO REQUESTED DETECTOR DOGS, PLUS TRAINING FOR MEXICAN HANDLERS, TO BE USED BY MFJP IN ROADBLOCK INTERDICTION EFFORTS. HE NOTED THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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ALL ACTUAL SEARCHING OF VEHICLES WAS PERFORMED BY THE MFJP, AND THAT THE USE OF DETECTOR DOGS WOULD BE OF GREAT HELP TO THE MFJP AGENTS AND WOULD ENSURE FASTER AND MORE THOROUGH VEHICLE INSPECTIONS.

#### 4. MISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

KEYED TO THE ITEMS LISTED IN PARA 3 ABOVE, WE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING ACTION:

A. NO ACTION RECOMMENDED AT PRESENT, SINCE WE CONSIDER THIS REQUEST TO BE PREMATURE. EVERGREEN PILOTS ARE JUST GOING INTO ACTION AND ANY EXTENSION OF THEIR CONTRACT SHOULD BE PRECEDED BY AN EVALUATION OF THEIR PERFORMANCE.

B. NO WASHINGTON ACTION RECOMMENDED. WE BELIEVE WE HAVE FORESTALLED THIS REQUEST.

C. NO ACTION FOR PRESENT, PENDING (1) AN EVALUATION OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE ADDITIONAL 9 MECHANIC INSTRUCTORS AND (2) AN ATTEMPT TO HIRE MORE MEXICAN MECHANICS UNDER THE ATTRACTIVE NEW PAY SCALE.

D. COMMO SPECIALISTS LEE AND NAUROCKI WILL DISCUSS THESE REQUIREMENTS WITH ATTY. GEN'S OFFICE, FOLLOWING WHICH WE SHALL MAKE OUR RECOMMENDATIONS. (FOR THE MOMENT, WE REMAIN SKEPTICAL THAT THIS ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT IS REALLY NEEDED, IN

VIEW OF THE FACT THAT MOST OF THE USG-PROVIDED  
COMMO EQUIPMENT HAS YET TO BE INSTALLED.)

E. ACTION BEING TAKEN BY DEA IN MEXICO.

F. RECOMMEND S/NM AND CUSTOMS TAKE PROMPT  
ACTION TO MEET THIS REQUEST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.  
THE THUS FAR LACKLUSTER ROADBLOCK EFFORT NEEDS  
HELP URGENTLY IF IT IS TO PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN  
THIS CAMPAIGN.

G. WITH REFERENCE TO PARA 2.H ABOVE, WE REQUEST THE TDY  
ASSIGNMENT, FOR A 30-DAY TRIAL PERIOD, OF ONE ADDITIONAL  
GENERAL TECHNICAL ADVISOR. THIS WOULD ENABLE US  
TO SEND HOWARD GROOM (WHO IS ALREADY WELL READ  
INTO THE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM) TO CULIACAN WHILE  
THE NEW TDY ADVISOR CAN BE USED TO FILL IN BEHIND  
GROOM IN MEXICO CITY.

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## Message Attributes

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